(b) Prior to the constitution of the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution in September, 1974, there was no systematic monitoring of air and water quality in the country. Data collected by the Central Board from the river basin studies and water quality monitoring stations, do not indicate any clear trend of increase or decrease of water pollution. Air quality monitoring studies carried out by Central Board through its net-work of monitoring stations do not indicate any significant increase or decrease in the different parameters of air quality.

Regional Rural Banks

1397. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Regional Rural Banks in the country;

(b) how many of them are running on profit and how many are running in loss;

(c) what are the reasons for their running in loss;

(d) what is the accumulated loss of these banks; and

(e) what measures Government have taken to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At present there are 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country.

(b) to (e) Out of the 194 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in position at the end of December 1986, 156 RRBs had accumulated losses amounting to Rs. 94.31 crores.

The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks; (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientele consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500/-only; (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs a number of steps have been taken for improving the viability of RRBs. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public bodies/Village Panchayats etc., (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to them by the sponsoring banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR funds directly in Government Securities with a view to obtaining better return.

Besides, the Sponsoring Banks have also asked to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of RRBs.

Seizure of narcotics

1398. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of seizures effected in bulk quantities of narcotics like hashish, heroin, etc. in different places during the last six months;

(b) what is their estimated value and how the seized narcotics were disposed of; and

(c) what steps are being taken to tackle the problem of drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A statement showing significant seizures of drugs, made in different places of the country, from 1.8.1987 to 31.1.1988 is enclosed (*See* below)

(b) No precise value of the drugs seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, etc. The confiscated drugs ripe for disposal after due legal proceedings, are sent to the Government factories. While opium and morphine are further processed, other drugs are destroyed.

(c) Govenment have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug-trafficking which include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, increased co-operation between various drug law enforcement agencies, bilateral co-operation with Pakistan and regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC. The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate action.

Statement

S.No.	Quantity (Kgs.)	Date of seizure	Place of seizure and other details
		1 *HEROIN*	
1	20	2-8-1987	By Border Security Force at Ferozepur.
2	94	31-8-1987	By Customs at Bombay. Two persons arrested.
3	15	7-9-1987	By Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at Delhi.
4	108	17-9-1987	By Customs at Bombay.
5	221	18-9-1987	Jointly by Police and Customs. 5 persons arrested.
6	10	18-9-1987	By Narcotics Control Bureau at Delhi. 6 persons arrested.
7	105	12-11-1987	By Customs at Udhar Dhariwal (Rajasthan).
8	25	28-11-1987	By Police at Rajathan in Rohi Check-3D. One person arrested.
9	36	29-11-1987	By Customs at Chatiwind (Punjab). 3 persons arrested.
10	12	21-12-1987	By Narcotics Control Bureau at Bombay. one person arrested.
11	17	24-12-1987	Jointly by Customs and Police at Amritsar.
12	187	28-12-1987	By Border Security Force at Jalalabad on Indo-Pak border after exchange of fire. Smugglers escaped.
13	84	2-1-1988	By Border Security Force on Indo-Pak border. Seized along with Camel.
14	174	6-1-1988	By Customs at Ludhiana with 39 Kgs. of opium. One person arrested.
15	10	9-1-1988	By Narcotics Control Bureau at Bombay. Two persons apprehended.
16	150	21-23-1-1988	By Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at Bombay. One person arrested.
		2 *HASHISH (CHARAS)*	
17	39	2-9-1987	By Border Security Force at Ghuria Village in Rajasthan.
18	71	16-9-1987	By Border Security Force at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan). No arrests were made.
19	121	30-9-1987	
20	508	2-10-1987	
21	650	3-10-1987	
22	1985	14-10-1987	

Sl.No.	Quantity (Kgs.)	Date of seizure	Place of seizure and other details
23	20	14-10-1987	By Customs at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
	3 *OPIUM*		
24	180	20-8-1987	By Narcotics Commissioner's office at Rajasthan. Four persons arrested.
25	606	6-7-9-1987	By Customs and Central Excise, Shillong. Over 16 persons arrested.
26	13	19-9-1987	By Border Security Force at Jalalabad Sector of Indo-Pak. border.
	4 *GANJA*		
27	1,200	2-8-1987	By Customs (Preventive) at Dharbanga-Jainagar Road from a truck.
28	1,423	28-9-197	By Customs, Jaynagar.
29	5,000	2-12-1987	By Customs (Preventive), Patna at Harar in Madhubani (Indo-Nepal border) as unclaimed.
30	1,640	7-12-1987	By Police at Bombay. Four persons arrested

NOTE : Figures provisional and rounded off to the nearest kilogram.

नेशनल टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन के उत्पादों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

1399. **श्री रशीद मसूद** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नेशनल टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन ने हाल ही में अपने उत्पादों के मूल्यों में 10 प्रतिशत वृद्धि की घोषणा की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस मूल्य वृद्धि के क्या कारण हैं और किन-किन उत्पादों के मूल्यों में कितनी-कितनी वृद्धि की गई है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री राम निवास मिर्धा): (क) से (ग) जी, हां । रुई की कीमतों में अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि को ध्यान में रखते हुए, एन० टी० सी० ने अपने सहायक निगमों को दिसम्बर, 1987 में कपड़े की कीमतों में 10% वृद्धि करने के निदेश जारी कर दिये हैं । यह वृद्धि एन टी० सी० द्वारा उत्पादित प्रोसेस्ड तथा ग्रे फैब्रिकों दोनों में होगी । यार्न के मामले में, दिसम्बर, 1987 के दौरान प्रचालित बाजार दशाओं के अनुरूप, कीमतों में लगभग 6% की वृद्धि की गई थी ।

Agreement with Netherlands for purifying the Ganga

1400. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed an agreement with the Netherlands Government for purifying the Ganga; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation has been signed between the Government of India and Government of Netherland on 18th January, 1988 Under the Memorandum, both the Governments have agreed to enhance